

Peninsula Arts & Culture Alliance (PACA)

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: Semiahmoo Arts Society (SAS)

Facilitators: Elaine Cheung and Michele Partridge

1. Welcome

Elaine Cheung and Michele Partridge welcomed attendees and reaffirmed PACA's mission to foster collaboration, mutual support, and shared success within the local arts community.

2. Semiahmoo Arts Society (SAS) Membership

The following membership information was shared:

- Annual membership fee: \$50.
- Membership includes both Semiahmoo Arts Society (SAS) and PACA membership.
- Members receive one complimentary PACA meeting per year.

Registration: <https://semiahmooarts.com/paca>

3. Member Introductions and Updates

Lucille Loose

Lucille shared her ongoing efforts to find opportunities to exhibit and sell her artwork. Although sales have been slow, she continues to promote her work and participate in local arts initiatives.

- Participated in the White Rock Culture Crawl and International Artist Day (IAD) activities.
- Was accepted into Uptown Gallery in July, joining five other artists.
- Is also exhibiting at Nomad Gallery.

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Tamiko Spicer – Okimat Artworks

Tamiko provided the following updates:

- Continues to distribute Okimat's weather-resistant sculpting material across Canada.
- Will host a mini-class on December 4, during which participants will create a Christmas gnome. Each participant will receive a three-pound box of sculpting material.
- Shared an update on the Butterfly Bench placemaking project in White Rock. The project has received endorsement and is awaiting technical approval before fabrication can begin. Further coordination with the City is required regarding the bench's footing and arborist involvement.

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Nicci Battilana

Nicci shared several recent successes and upcoming events:

- September 17: The South Rock Art Tour opening at Nomad Gallery was well received.
- October 4: Participated in the Culture Crawl and taught a mixed-media workshop at Kent Street Activity Centre. The workshop was successful, with participants expressing interest in additional sessions.
- December 2026: An upcoming exhibition titled *Tiny Riots* at Nomad Gallery.
- Second Tuesdays, 2:00–3:30 PM: Ongoing Sip and Sketch sessions at Three Dogs, except in November 2026.

- September 24–26, 2027: The Metro Vancouver Pen and Paper Fair will take place at the White Rock Community Centre.
- November 2027: A joint exhibition with Tamiko is planned for Uptown Gallery.
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Chris McClure and Marilyn Hurst – Golden Cactus Studio

Chris and Marilyn announced plans to exhibit at Uptown Gallery in November 2026 in celebration of International Artist Day, which falls on October 25.

They emphasized that International Artist Day celebrates artists across all disciplines and encouraged members to participate in and support the celebration.

Dale Harding – Pizzazz School of Personal Growth and Fashion Agency

Dale shared information about her programs for youth, which focus on personal development, self-confidence, and growth.

As she approaches the organization's 50th year, she has developed a promotional package to present to schools and is using social media to increase awareness of her classes.

A suggestion was made to explore opportunities to participate in Grade 7 girls' conferences within the Surrey School District.

Michele Partridge – Confidence Coach and Peninsula Productions

Michele continues to teach acting and improv classes on the last Monday of each month, with admission by donation.

Upcoming activities include:

- The Agency Singers: A jazz-club-style performance featuring the singers, with the theatre transformed into an intimate jazz club for the event.
- Improv performances: Upcoming performances on October 28 and November 30, 2026, at Peninsula Productions.

Michele announced that she will be moving to Ireland. Nicci will be taking over her role at Peninsula Productions.

Elaine Cheung – White Rock City Councillor and White Rock Farmers' Market

Elaine shared that the White Rock Farmers' Market concluded its season successfully, with a busy final market day.

She also encouraged members to research the municipal candidates and participate in the upcoming election, emphasizing that municipal decisions directly affect residents through roads, infrastructure, zoning, and community amenities.

4. Semiahmoo Arts Society (SAS) Updates

Staff Update

Nina introduced Melissa Nevison as the new programmer. Melissa previously worked for the City of Surrey and the White Rock Arts Council before it became SAS. She has also spent the past four and a half years working in the travel industry.

Upcoming Workshops and Community Opportunities

- Fall workshops are underway, including an upcoming felting workshop.
- Bayview long-term seniors' home is seeking donated artwork to brighten its hallways. The home is also interested in establishing a rotating art exhibition program where SAS members can display their work.

- A volunteer is needed to coordinate the rotating art program, including arrangements for displaying artists' names and any associated costs.

Action Item: Members are asked to share the Bayview artwork opportunity with Michele so she can promote it through social media.

Paint the Town

Paint the Town was reported as a very successful event, with strong attendance and numerous paintings sold. The live auction achieved respectable prices, and approximately \$6,000 will be returned to SAS.

SAS Financial Situation and Funding Advocacy

An update was provided on SAS's financial situation and recent public discussion regarding arts funding.

- A letter to the editor was published in the *Peace Arch News*, along with an article by Alex Browne.
- Amanda met with Doug McCallum to discuss the situation.
- Nina spoke with local politicians at the Uniti Meet the Candidates event, including Linda Annis and two members of her team. They expressed support for arts funding.
- Federal and provincial funding opportunities were also discussed, including the possibility of restoring funding that had been cut.

Nina advised that she will be taking a leave of absence due to financial constraints. This will be her final PACA meeting as an SAS representative.

5. City of White Rock Updates

Rebecca provided the following updates on the City's arts and culture initiatives:

- Culture Crawl: The event attracted more than 6,000 visitors and celebrated artists working across multiple disciplines. The City supported more than 250 artists across the peninsula.
- Cultural heritage videos: Work on the cultural heritage video series continues.
- Street banners: The current banners are being changed over, with planning underway for next year's program.
- Public Art Policy: The City is updating its Public Art Policy.
- Potential 2027 projects: These include two potential murals, heritage signage, the Butterfly Bench project, and a mosaic at West Beach.
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6. New Business

No new business was raised.

7. Next PACA Meeting

There will be no PACA meeting in November, as the usual meeting date falls on Remembrance Day.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 9, 2026.

- 12:00 PM: Potluck gathering.
- 1:00 PM: PACA meeting.

The December meeting will mark Michele's final meeting and Nicci's first meeting in her new role.

8. Action Items Summary

1. All PACA members: Share the Bayview seniors' home artwork donation and rotating exhibition opportunity with Michele.
2. Interested members: Explore opportunities for youth confidence-building programs through Grade 7 girls' conferences in the Surrey School District.



3. All members: Consider participating in and supporting International Artist Day activities.

4. All members: Attend the December 9 PACA potluck and meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 2:00 PM.